

as nationwide, childcare centers have joined together to declare Friday, May 7, 1999 to be Provider Appreciation Day.

It is estimated that of the 21 million children under the age of six in America, 13 million are in childcare, at least part time. An additional 24 million school age children are in some form of childcare outside of school time.

By calling attention to the importance of high quality child care services for all children and families, the Nation's child care providers hope to improve the quality and availability of such services.

This day of recognition has been celebrated annually, since 1996, on the Friday before Mother's Day. The idea was spearheaded by a group of volunteers from my home state of New Jersey because they saw the need for a day of recognition and appreciation for childcare providers. It takes a special person to work in this field and their contribution to the quality of family life frequently goes unnoticed.

One such place, where many special people have helped improve the lives of children and parents in my district is "Children on the Green" in Morristown, New Jersey. Children on the Green is a special place. It is a center that provides quality, developmentally appropriate childcare and early education to families living or working in the Morristown community. At the same time, this center offers some of its slots to children from area shelters. Children from the Morris Shelter, Jersey Battered Women's Services, and the Interfaith Council for Homeless Families of Morris County are in attendance each day. This type of child care provides some stability to these children while offering their parents time to pursue opportunities that would help them to improve their living situations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring the dedicated child care providers at Children on the Green in Morristown, and the child care providers all over New Jersey and across our nation who each day give a little bit of themselves to help a child learn, make friends and feel safe and secure.

SALUTE TO WALTER D. "DEE" DALTON IN COMMEMORATION OF HIS 25 YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, we in the House of Representatives are in the midst of celebrating the 15th annual Public Service Recognition Week sponsored by the Public Employees Roundtable. This week—in ceremonies on the National Mall here in Washington and in communities all across America—we pay tribute to the inspiring work of countless public servants who give of themselves to make this Nation a better place. I am proud to recognize one such public servant today.

Mr. Walter D. "Dee" Dalton of Somerset, KY, is currently the District Manager of the So-

cial Security Administration office in Somerset. During this 25 years of dedicated service to the agency he has earned the admiration of his coworkers and the gratitude of thousands of his neighbors for his effectiveness. His career with the Social Security Administration is an inspiration to all Americans and is a sterling example of what public service is all about. Mr. Dalton's career has been built around a single idea: that reaching out and helping one's neighbors is still a noble undertaking.

In the Pulaski, Wayne and Clinton County area, thousands of citizens can testify to the fair and efficient service they receive from Mr. Dalton and the staff of the Somerset Social Security Office. This compassion for neighbors, combined with his dedicated and effective leadership, have built a solid reputation for the office that is well known across Kentucky and the entire agency.

Born in nearby Monticello, KY, Walter D. "Dee" Dalton earned a bachelor's degree in business from Campbellsville College in Taylor County, KY. The majority of his career has been in service to the Somerset office of the Social Security Administration. More than 19,000 of the citizens I represent rely upon Mr. Dalton and his fine staff of 14 for the timely administration of their Social Security benefits. More than 6,300 Kentuckians who rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) also depend upon the hard work of the employees of the Somerset Social Security office. This fine tradition of neighbor helping neighbor is why I believe Mr. Dalton is a fine example of the Federal employee we recognize during National Public Service Recognition Week.

Countless citizens join me in saluting Walter D. "Dee" Dalton. We all share the pride of his wife, Clorenda, and their two children, 17-year-old Rachel and 9-year-old Chip. I join his family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors in saluting him for his career of public service. We thank him for his dedication, his hard work, and his commitment to make our region of Kentucky a better place to live.

MORTGAGE CANCELLATION RELIEF ACT OF 1999

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, economic conditions in my district have resulted in decreased home values, and in many situations, homeowners find that the value of their home is less than their outstanding mortgage. Generally homeowners who are forced to sell their home for less than the amount of the outstanding mortgage must find additional funds to pay off the lender for the mortgage shortfall. However, in some situations, the lender might forgive the shortfall as an accommodation to the homeowner.

For example, a homeowner who has become unemployed might be forced to sell because there is no income to make the mortgage payments. If the proceeds are insufficient to pay off the mortgage, the lender might forgive the shortfall—particularly if there is no

possibility of recovery from the unemployed homeowner. Although the homeowner has lost a home, as well as all equity investment, the income tax laws require that unemployed former homeowner pay taxes on the amount of the mortgage forgiven by the lender. The tax laws treat this forgiven amount as if it had been paid to the former homeowner by the lender. So, even though the former homeowner does not have money to maintain or pay off the mortgage, the tax laws require this unfortunate person to pay tax on the forgiven amount.

This outcome is patently unfair, particularly when we consider that the income tax laws allow better-situated homeowners to exclude up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 for married couple filing jointly) of gain on the sale of a home. It seems ironic that under current income tax laws, the only two classes of homesellers remaining in the tax system are: Taxpayers with capital gains in excess of \$250,000/\$500,000; and Taxpayers whose home values have declined below the outstanding mortgage.

The "Mortgage Cancellation Relief Act of 1999" rectifies this injustice by exempting taxpayers from including in ordinary income any mortgage amount forgiven by a lender, provided the proceeds of the home sale are insufficient to satisfy the qualified outstanding mortgage. This legislation introduces fairness in the taxation of a home sale, extending equity to those (former) homeowners most in need of tax relief.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTION OF WIC PROGRAMS

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of WIC's 25th Anniversary and to commend WIC for their years of sterling health and nutrition service to the nation's low-income women, infants and children.

In the last 25 years, WIC has dramatically improved the nutrition and health of millions of Americans. WIC provides quality education and services to over 7.4 million pregnant women, new mothers, infants and preschool children through 10,000 clinics nationwide. It serves as a short-term intervention program designed to influence lifetime nutrition and health behaviors in a targeted, high-risk population. WIC provides quality education and services to over 7.4 million pregnant women, new mothers, infants and preschool children through 10,000 clinics nationwide.

As a nurse, I understand the importance of preventative care. Whether we are talking about health care, education or crime, services that focus on preventative care save money in the long run. That is why the WIC program is so important—it just makes sense. Studies have shown that pregnant women who participate in WIC have longer pregnancies leading to fewer premature births, have fewer low and very low birth weight babies, experience fewer fetal and infant deaths, and seek prenatal care earlier in pregnancy. WIC helps to assure normal childhood growth,

reduces early childhood anemia, increases immunization rates, improves access to pediatric health care, and readies children to learn.

Every dollar spent on pregnant women in WIC produces \$1.92 to \$4.21 in Medicaid savings for newborns and their mothers. Consider the following: it costs \$22,000 per pound to raise a low (less than 5.5 pounds) or very low (less than 3.25 pounds) birth weight infant to normal weight. It costs \$40 per pound to provide WIC prenatal benefits. Furthermore, Medicaid costs were reduced on average \$12,000 to \$15,000 per infant for every very low birth weight birth prevented.

These statistics illustrate that WIC works. By providing short-term preventative services, WIC improves the health and quality of life for millions of low-income women and children while at the same time saving the federal government money. We need to ensure that WIC continues to provide these important services—I know that I will continue to fight for funding for this important program.

Again, I want to congratulate WIC on their 25th anniversary and I urge them to keep up the good work.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF KREDA FRIERSON YOKLEY

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions Kreda Frierson Yokley has made to the Sixth Congressional District and to her community on this her last day as my field representative.

Since November 1995, Kreda has worked in my Murfreesboro District office. Although my staff and I are sad to see her go, it is comforting to know that she will continue her career in public service as a director for the Mid-Cumberland Community Action Agency.

For the past 13½ years, Kreda has helped those who served our country. Veterans from across the Sixth District relied on her to help get their medals and serve as a liaison in their efforts to receive compensation and medical assistance from the Veterans Administration. She has helped not only those who served, but those just starting a career with the Armed Forces. Kreda has been instrumental in securing the appointments of scores of young men and women in the Sixth District to the academies at West Point, Annapolis and Colorado Springs.

Traveling to Williamson and Marshall counties, Kreda reached out to constituents through my Mobile Congressional Office. I always get my best ideas from home and Kreda served as a constant conduit for peoples' ideas and concerns.

My staff and I will miss Kreda. Constituents, friends, family and staff describe her as professional, a class act and dependable. Most of all, she always seems to have the knack for saying just the right thing, whether to calm a frustrated or hunting constituent or to encourage a friend or co-worker.

Kreda, congratulations on your new job. May you prosper and thrive in your new envi-

ronment. May you new co-workers and clients value you as much as we do. Thank you for your many years of service, and may God bless you in your future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN NURSES DURING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a remarkable group of dedicated health professional—the 2.6 million registered nurses in the United States.

These outstanding men and women, who work hard to save lives and maintain the health of millions of individuals, will celebrate National Nurses Week, May 6–12, 1999. I believe that all Americans who have ever been cared for or comforted by a nurse should celebrate National Nurses Week.

According to the American Nurses Association, National Nurse Week was first observed October 11–16, 1954, the 100th Anniversary of the founding of modern nursing by Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War. National Nurses Day and Week was eventually moved to May to incorporate Florence Nightingale's birthday, which is May 12th.

Using this year's theme "Nursing: Healing from the Heart," the American Nurses Association (ANA) and its 53 constituent associations will highlight the diverse ways in which registered nurses, the largest health care profession, are working to improve health care. Studies show that the higher the ratio of nurse-to-patients in a hospital, the lower the patient death rate. In short, registered nurses provide top-quality, cost-effective health care services for their patients.

Mr. Speaker, I salute America's nurses during the week of May 6–12, 1999 and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA OFFERS A "GIFT OF HOPE" FOR THE PEOPLE OF COLORADO IN THE WAKE OF THE LITTLETON SHOOTINGS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest sympathies to the people of Littleton, Colorado, in the wake of the shootings at Columbine High School that left 15 people dead.

This tragedy stands as the worst case of school violence in the history of the United States. The people of Alabama share in the grief of all of those in Colorado who were touched by this horrific event. Our hope and prayers are with them.

Over the course of Alabama's history, our state has developed a rich tradition of music and songwriting that have helped people cope during times of great loss and sadness. Car-

rying on this tradition are two Alabama songwriters named Eddie Martin and Susan Welborn. The two Shoals-area artists have collaborated on a song called "Listen for the Wings." The song was written as a gift of hope for the people of Littleton as they work to rebuild their community and restore order to their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the lyrics to the song "Listen for the Wings" so that others might have the opportunity to read these words and take solace in the song's message.

LISTEN FOR THE WINGS

(By Eddie Martin and Susan Welborn)

Just a Tuesday morning
At a school in the heartland
'Til they walked in with bombs
And guns in their hands
It was all too familiar
Another horrible mistake
To see their future
Explode in such rage
We need some help to understand
And lead us back to truth again
Do you believe in angels?
Well, I do
I'm praying that the angels
Wrap their arms around you
If you could just believe in angels
Like I do
Then you'd know there's always hope for you
No matter what life may bring
Take time to listen for the wings
If Moses needed angels
What about you and me?
In the middle of the violence
And the crazy lives we lead
Gotta bring some love back
Gotta have a little faith
Find some forgiveness
'Cause it's the only way
So many times we pass right by
The simple answers to our whys
Do you believe in angels
Well, I do
I'm praying that the angels
Wrap their arms around you
If you could just believe in angels
Like I do
Then you'd know there's always
Hope for you
No matter what life may bring
Take time to listen for the wings
When everything goes wrong
Seems all hope is gone
Remember, you're not alone
We're all gonna feel some pain
And walk through the wind and rain
But no matter what life may bring
Take time, and listen for the wings

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.